

## THE ADVOCATE

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THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 1908.

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## PEDDLING DIPLOMAS.

"Our pulpit was filled last Sunday morning by Prof. —, who at 3:30 o'clock conferred the degree of D. D. upon our worthy pastor, Rev. —." is a highly interesting bit of news The Advocate conveyed to its readers last week, the names being omitted now for reasons which will appear later.

With one but exception, when this same institution inaugurated the innovation, no instance has come under the observation of the writer in which the college, though its representative, went to the man upon whom it was to confer the highest honors in its power; but, rather, the man, either in person or by proxy, had gone to the college. As representative of the first is cited the case of "Mark Twain" who, last summer, crossed the ocean to receive an honorary degree from an English university. The sending of a representative by Emperor William to an American university illustrates the second. In each instance thousands of miles had to be traveled, but such was the demand of custom.

In the case under consideration we find the man and the college about 30 miles apart, but Mahomet would not for could not go to the mountain, so forsooth, the mountain went to Mahomet.

Was there ever such a prostitution of the privilege vested by the state in an institution of learning? The idea of a school, whose curriculum is surpassed by a good high school; a school with less than 100 in attendance; a school which has never conferred a degree in course, scattering so promiscuously the degree of doctor of divinity, which reputable universities jealously guard, would be laughable, were the practice not fraught with so much injury to the giver, the recipient and the race.

When during the state meeting of a strong religious organization last summer, this same institution, through its president, saw fit to honor two of its co-religionists with the degree of doctor of divinity, The Advocate was approached by one of the most intelligent members of the denomination, who, deploring the course pursued, asked that some protest be made. Realizing how easily and how quickly anything appearing in a newspaper on denominational matters is misconstrued to the disadvantage of the paper, no notice was taken of such a flagrant misuse of power, but to remain silent longer would betoken either ignorance or indifference on our part to the educational interests of our people.

Surely the trustees, if the president does not, must see that the institution contributes nothing to the cause it is supposed to represent by its utter disregard, in at least one instance, of the motives which actuate our leading colleges in conferring their honors. To be decorated presupposes the recipient either a man of extraordinary learning or one who, by exceptional services, has added to the sum total of human knowledge along his particular line, whether it be letters, law, science or religion. The mere fact that a preacher is a good financier, an evangelist above the average, or has spent two score years or more in the ministry does not entitle him to an honorary degree, and to confer it for any or all the above reasons bespeaks lamentable ignorance.

We are loath to believe that it is a matter of dollars and cents with the

donor, but even if it were, one, knowing the facts, would ask himself, in the language of one of these doctors, "Do it pay?" Does it pay to make a doctor of a preacher who does not know a Hebrew or Greek root from a sweet potato? Is it not lowering the standard of our ministry, which is already so low in some localities as to be a mockery?

## PAY UP.

On the first of the year the third assistant postmaster-general issued a notice to postmasters bearing on orders issued some time ago, becoming effective January 1st, relating to lapsed subscriptions. Postmasters were advised that though the rule governing expired subscriptions went into effect with the year, it is the desire of the department to give every publisher a reasonable opportunity to adjust his business to the new conditions. The notice reads in part:

"Publishers who show good faith and that they are making progress should in fairness have such opportunity. The purpose of the new regulations is to correct real abuses and not to put into the hands of postmasters instruments with which to annoy and vex publishers whose practices are normal."

Hereafter, under the rulings of the department, publishers of weekly newspapers cannot carry subscribers in arrears more than one year. For each violation of this regulation publishers will be fined one cent for each four ounces.

The enforcement of this regulation with the increased cost of paper and labor will work a hardship upon Negro publishers, in particular, which their clientele seems not to realize. To be specific, the cost of printing The Advocate is 50 per cent. more this year than last, and we, like a number of our contemporaries, are compelled either to raise our subscription rates or reduce the size of the paper. Furthermore, we are compelled, perforce, to insist upon the immediate settlement of subscription accounts in arrears more than one year, or to discontinue sending the paper.

Again, cards of thanks, resolutions of condolence, sermons, and the like, which have been published heretofore without cost, must in the future, be paid for. News of general interest, as has been our custom, will be cheerfully given publicity, but notices of enterprises or entertainments, the object of which is to make money for organizations or individuals, must be accompanied by coin of the realm, otherwise, they will be consigned to the waste basket.

We trust that our readers and subscribers will appreciate our position, and govern themselves accordingly.

## MINING LEGISLATION.

That there is a pressing need of mining legislation there is no question, but it would be absurd to think that the ordinary legislature, many of whose members do not know the difference between a coal mine and a ground-hog burrow, can be depended upon, without expert advice, to enact a law which will meet the requirements. The report of the Ohio mine inspectors upon the Monongah horror, coming as it does from practical miners—men who know the dangers of underground toil—is entitled to the most serious consideration and should be borne in mind by our solons when they take up this question which affects the greatest industry in the state.

We feel that the sacrifice of over 600 lives by mine explosions in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Alabama during the present month ought to stir the moral sensibilities and teach a never-to-be-forgotten lesson to those connected with mines, prompting every possible precaution against such calamities. We are not disposed to criticize, and particularly not in an unfriendly way, but we are not clear as to the advantages to be derived from the system of driving seven parallel main headings. It is clear, however, from what we have all seen that in the Monongah case they acted as storage chambers for mine dust, which we consider is one of the greatest sources of danger at those mines. The great evil of connecting mining properties is also forcibly presented in this case by doubling the number of dead. In the annual report issued by this department in 1904 we wrote a rather strong comment against the dangers and evils incident to the connecting of mining properties, and closed with the following paragraphs:

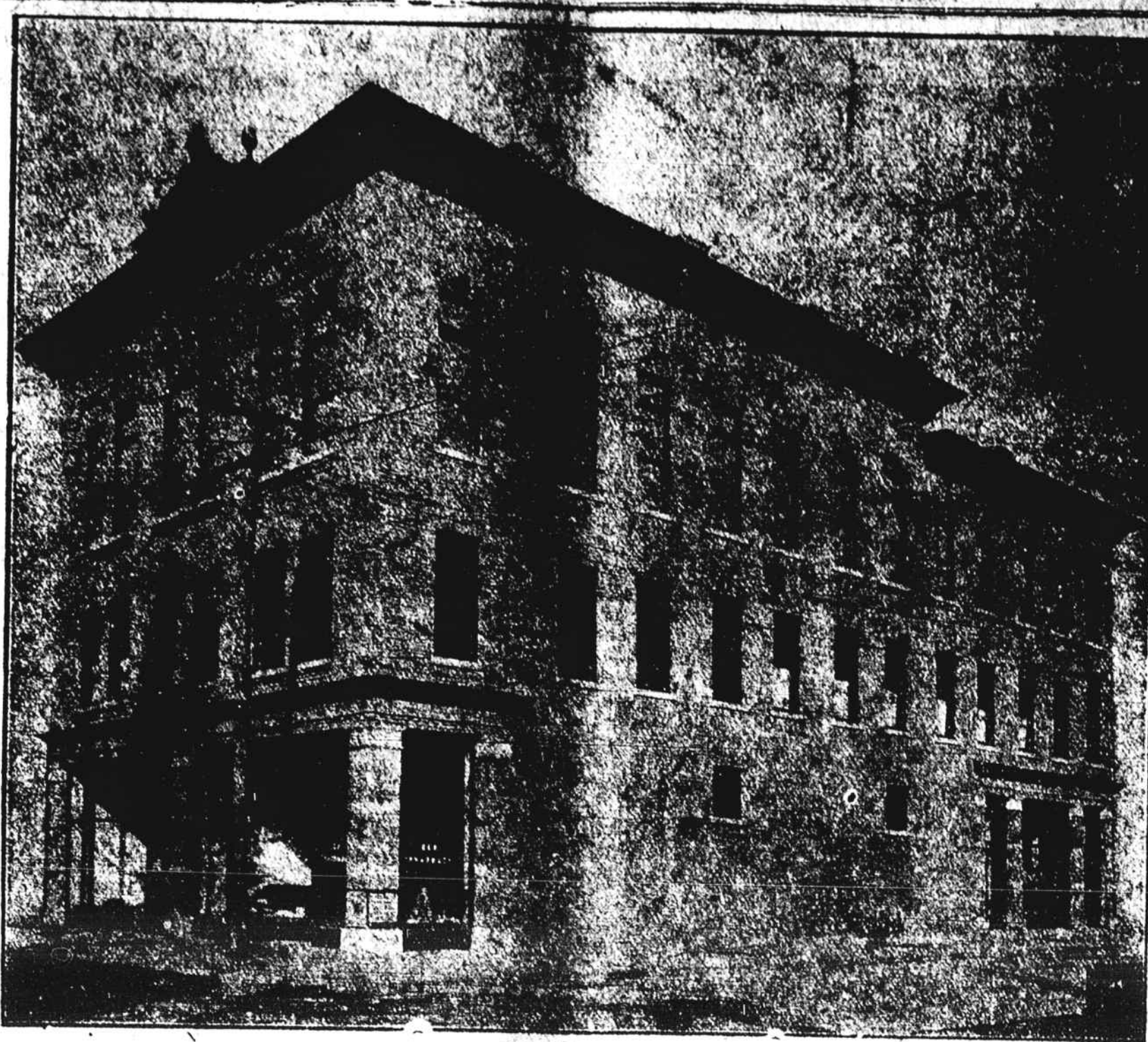
"We fear that if there is not some check in this direction and more care exercised about the connection of mining properties that the time is not far distant when the subject will be presented to the people in such a serious aspect that a prohibitory law will be enacted."

"Close observation and striking recent events justify a further prediction that if the general conditions of operating mines in the various states are not soon covered by adequate federal laws that the sacrifice of human life in the mines has merely just begun."

Now that the Washington Bee has succeeded in ousting Superintendent Chancellor its editorial space will be confined to the free advertisement of the alleged unfitness of Mr. Roscoe Conklin Bruce for the assistant principality. Poor Washington! Will it never have done with its school muds?

The Cleveland Journal is out in a double headed, double column editorial

THE ADVOCATE



## ARE YOU WORKING FOR MONEY? OR IS YUR MONEY WORKING FOR YOU?

If you are working and saving your money and putting it in a bank where you get no interest, keeping it in a trunk or hiding it some where under your house—You Are Working For Money  
If you are working and saving your money and investing it in a safe way, where it will be working day and night whether you are working or not, and making you at least six per cent. interest—Your Money is Working For You.

The Pythian Mutual Investment Association was organized in order to give us an opportunity to put the money we could save together and then put it to work. The above is a picture of our building on the Capitol Square in Charleston. We have just purchased a splendid three story brick building on one of the main business streets in the city of Huntington. The first floor is occupied by the Huntington Herald, the largest daily newspaper published in that section of the state, the second floor is used for office rooms, while the third floor is a large assembly and lodge hall. This building is sure to pay us well. After the Charleston building had been occupied only eight months our stockholders were paid a dividend of six per cent.

Stock is still on sale at \$10.00 per share, either paid up or on the installment plan. Ask your agent in your locality about it or write to this office.

## LET YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOU Pythian Mutual Investment Association

S. W. STARKS, President

Charleston, W. Va.

for William Howard Taft for president. We have a rather faint recollection that this same paper was also for Burton for mayor of Cleveland. It does not necessarily follow that the Journal is a Jonah.

The bureau of labor has issued a bulletin showing that the average monthly expense of the Italian laborer is, for food, \$5.90. What is your average monthly expense?

## OUR STATE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

(From the Wheeling Intelligencer.)  
In the Intelligencer today appears an interesting communication from the principal of the Fairmont state normal school, in which emphasis is laid upon a proposed change in the state school law. It is desired by both the university and normal school authorities that a certificate from one of these institutions shall be accepted by public school boards generally as evidence of fitness and ability to teach; in other words, that the holders of normal school and university diplomas shall be relieved of the state school examinations.

While this may appear to normal school instructors a subject of vital importance the Intelligencer can hardly agree with the statement that it is of as great importance to the whole state as the limitation of tax levies and the adjustment of all county officers on a fair salary basis. It is, in fact, doubtful whether the proposition is meritorious. It would appear that normal school or university graduates should be qualified to teach any public school; but if so, where is the hardship in requiring them to take the examination? Moreover, how are the public schools of the state to be benefited by a practice that will simply make it easier for some teachers to get a No. 1 certificate than it has been heretofore?

We have heretofore had occasion to express the belief that one of the defects, if not the principal defect, in our state school system is that we are trying to improve it from the top downward, instead of from the bottom upward. We are gilding the dome and ornamenting the windows of the structure, while the foundation is weak and shaky. We are spending a great many thousand dollars on the

university, and recently we have launched into an expensive program of training school work in connection with the normal schools; and we are turning out many, young men and women who have been elaborately trained at the expense of the state, only to see the most of them find employment in other states. Why? Simply because appropriations and support for the common schools are not of such character as to justify highly trained teachers in engaging in such work. What we need most of all is not highly trained teachers, but country schools that are able to pay highly trained teachers. Provide the country school boards with sufficient funds to pay decent salaries nine or ten months in the year, and we will soon have an abundance of good teaching material. The competitive demand will shortly create the supply.

West Virginia does not need a multiplication of one-horse colleges; but it does need good common schools.

## NATIONAL NEGRO BUSINESS LEAGUES.

The next annual meeting of the National Negro Business League is to be held at Baltimore, Maryland, toward the middle of August, 1908. The Baltimore Negro Business League, under the leadership of Harry T. Pratt, the president, is already perfecting plans for the entertainment of the officers and delegates. A monster meeting in this behalf is soon to be held in Lyric Hall, Baltimore, and will be addressed by a speaker of national reputation, under the patronage of the leading business and professional men of the city.

Beginning with the month of January, M. M. Lewey, editor of the Florida Sentinel, Pensacola, will begin the systematic organization of local Negro Business Leagues successively in the states of Florida, Alabama and Georgia. Mr. Lewey is an earnest follower and officer of the National Negro Business League, and will push the organization of these local leagues with unrivaled enthusiasm. No league is heretofore to be recognized as such until a charter has been secured from the national organization.

The state Negro Business Leagues

of Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi and Indiana, through their officers, are now corresponding with the officers of the national organization looking to co-operative effort in organizing local leagues in each of the states named, and throughout the surrounding states as well. It is hoped to greatly increase the number of local leagues holding charters.

William H. Davis, official stenographer of the National Negro Business League, has been ill much since the last meeting at Topeka, Kan., and for that reason has just been able to transcribe his voluminous notes. The work as turned over to the corresponding secretary is a model of stenographic precision, and completely covers every incident of the Topeka meeting. The notes will now be speedily edited and turned over to the printer for early publication.

The local Negro Business League at Waterbury, Conn., has been incorporated under the laws of the state, and is actively pushing business development among the Negro people of that vicinity. A \$12,000 building has been constructed by the league, and is rented to six colored families, each family having five rooms and a bath. The president of this league is W. F. Miller; the secretary and general manager, James E. Kefford.

As a means of preserving interest in local Negro Business Leagues, Hon. R. L. Smith, president respectively of the Farmers' Improvement Society of Texas and of the Texas State Negro Business League, suggests the following: 1. That a summary be read at each meeting of the most important industrial events affecting the race throughout the country between the meetings. 2. That each member be required to save something each week out of his earnings and bank it so that the members may always have funds. President Smith states that he finds these plans beneficial, and that they have also induced the various women's clubs of the state to follow their plan of systematic saving.

The local Negro Business League at Mound Bayou, Miss., of which W. T. Montgomery is president, has undertaken to improve the county roads centering in Mound Bayou, so that

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1908

## ARE YOU A K. O. F. P.? IF NOT WHY NOT?

Do you not know that the Knights of Pythias is the strongest and most progressive order of the age?

The four departments of the order are as follows:

### SUBORDINATE LODGE

In this the members are united to care for and protect each other's interest as well as sickness and distress.

### UNIFORM RANK

In this department our young men are receiving a military education which they can get in no other way, thus making them better and more useful citizens.

### LADIES' COURT

In this the wives, mothers, widows, daughters and sisters of Knights are united for the common purposes of life.

### ENDOWMENT

In this department we are paying out thousands of dollars annually to the widows and heirs of deceased Knights.

If there is no lodge in your locality, confer with the Deputy Grand Chancellor of your district or write S. W. Starks, Charleston, W. Va., for terms upon which to organize a lodge

the farmers may not be interrupted in reaching the city with their products. It has also undertaken to erect a \$100,000 oil mill, and in this effort is being assisted by the Mississippi State Negro Business League.

The Negro Business League of Oklahoma, I. T., is distributing literature calling attention to the business opportunities of that section. A home-seekers' co-operative company and a trust company have recently been organized there and these organizations, together with the local league, are promoting the business development of the Negro people of that immediate territory.

100 YEARS' EXPERIENCE

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## BEST FOR THE BOWELS

If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're ill or will be. Keep your bowels open, and be well. Force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smoothest, easiest, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take

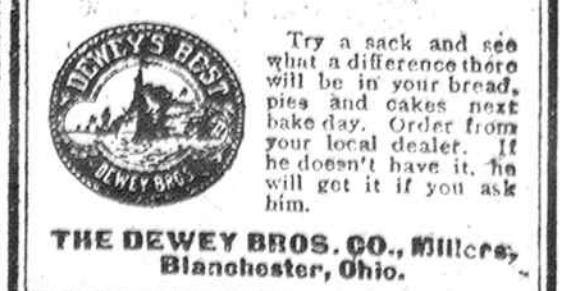


EAT 'EM LIKE CANDY  
Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good, Do Good, Never Sicken, Weaken or Grip; 10, 25 and 50 cents per box. Write for free sample, and booklet on health. Address  
Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago or New York.

## GOOD BREAD.

"My bread won't raise" is a common complaint among housekeepers. A distressing thing, but there's always a cause. Nine times out of ten it's on account of the flour.

**Dowey's Best Flour**  
does away with such complaints. If you can bake at all, you can have good luck with it. It is a flour with life in it. Made of best wheat, plump grains, grown by a superior process. The miller that makes it knows how.



Two new notaries have been commissioned by Governor Dawson. They are Dudley D. Williams, of Glen Alum, a hamlet in Mingo county, also John G. Pritchard, of Fairmont.